



BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief Strachan's Weekly Update

Friday night, officers responded to multiple alarms being tripped at a closed convenience store in East Bremerton. After several calls and several return trips, Officer Joe Corey eventually determined that a deflated balloon had triggered the alarms. As the Sergeant noted, at 4:00 AM on a Friday, this seemed really funny to everyone there.

Also on Friday, Officer Kent Mayfield responded to a theft from one of our relatively new marijuana stores. A prospective customer decided to run out of the door with a product sample, valued at \$40. Marijuana use is now legal, but stealing it is not.

Car prowling is sometimes considered a "minor property crime", but anyone who has had some stranger go through their stuff in their car certainly doesn't consider it minor. Officers did a great job Saturday night catching a car prowler. Officers were dispatched to the area of 15th and Snyder when an attempted vehicle prowl had just occurred. The caller awakened to see a person inside his carport banging on the window to his wife's car. The person was not able to get into the car and left. Officers arrived within a minute, determined the man's last known direction, and caught him within two blocks. The resident was able to identify the suspect in a field line up, and he was arrested for attempted vehicle prowl.

On Thursday night Officer Brandon Greenhill responded to a single-vehicle crash at a store. His investigation revealed that the intoxicated driver was likely trying to get to the adjacent bar. The driver fled the scene, but Officer Greenhill was able to identify him through contact with witnesses, as well as his ID card left in the vehicle. The driver had struck a fire hydrant, and completely dislodged it from the ground.



[Click here](#) for a press release from a robbery this week; three suspects are in custody.

An updated version of the "Unlucky 13" is also [available online](#).

Last Friday morning, the paper has a story about an officer-involved shooting in Cle Elum, which apparently started as a call of a suicidal man at a motel. This will be listed as yet another incident of "police violence", and the Washington Post is now doing a string of stories on these "police killings" and using these numbers to highlight the need for "something to change". Words matter, and these loaded terms continue, in my opinion, to get us sidetracked from a real issue, which is the fact that police are being continually placed in the position of dealing with sometimes violent individuals with untreated and chronic mental illness. I have linked a good article on this problem below, and the last part of the article contains this excerpt, which is a great summary of where we are as a society on this issue:

Yes, police should be better trained in how to try to de-escalate. But there always will be legitimate danger in these incidents - cops can, and do, get killed. The Post analysis "found that about nine in 10 of the mentally troubled people killed by police were armed, usually with guns, but also with knives or other sharp objects." A more rational and humane policy would give families robust treatment options before it gets to the point of calling the cops. This would mean more psychiatric hospital beds and more options for mandated care.

[Click here](#) for the article.

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Unlucky 13

[Click here](#) to download the current Unlucky 13 list.

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Finally, we continue to be thankful that we have great people doing the job, and great people continue to become new police officers. Below is a photo from two weeks ago of Officer Derek Ejde after he was sworn in at our city council meeting.



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